CLAIMS

1. An image processing device for displaying an image representative of a picture of an object viewed from a viewpoint in a virtual three-dimensional space where the object and the viewpoint are placed, comprising:

distance data calculation means for calculating distance data concerning the object and the viewpoint;

moving state determination means for determining at least one of a moving distance and a moving speed of the object in the virtual three-dimensional space, based on the distance data;

object moving means for moving the object in the virtual three-dimensional space based on at least one of the moving distance and the moving speed of the object, which is determined by the moving state determination means; and

image displaying means for displaying an image representative of a picture of the object moving in the virtual three-dimensional space viewed from the viewpoint.

2. The image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising:

size information determination means for determining size information indicative of a size of the object placed in the virtual three-dimensional space, based on the distance data; and

object enlargement and reduction means for enlarging or reducing the object according to the size information determined by the size information determination means,

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wherein the image displaying means displays an image representative of a picture of the object enlarged or reduced viewed from the viewpoint in the virtual three-dimensional space.

5   3.   The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the distance data is data indicative of a distance between a position associated with the object and a position of the viewpoint.

4.   The image processing device according to claim 2, wherein
10   the size information determination means determines a rate by which the object is enlarged or reduced as the size information of the object based on the distance data, and

the object enlargement and reduction means enlarges or reduces the object having a predetermined size by the rate.

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5.   An image processing method for displaying an image representative of a picture of an object viewed from a viewpoint in a virtual three-dimensional space where the object and the viewpoint are placed, comprising:

20   a distance data calculating step of calculating distance data concerning the object and the viewpoint;

a moving state determining step of determining at least one of a moving distance and a moving speed of the object in the virtual three-dimensional space, based on the distance data;

25   an object moving step of moving the object in the virtual three-dimensional space based on at least one of the moving distance

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and the moving speed of the object, which is determined by the moving

state determination means; and

an image displaying step of displaying an image

representative of a picture of the object moving in the virtual

5   three-dimensional space viewed from the viewpoint.

6.   A computer readable data storage medium for causing a computer

to function as

distance data calculation means for calculating distance data

10   concerning an object and a viewpoint both placed in a virtual

three-dimensional space;

moving state determination means for determining at least one

of a moving distance and a moving speed of the object in the virtual

three-dimensional space, based on the distance data;

15   object moving means for moving the object in the virtual

three-dimensional space based on at least one of the moving distance

and the moving speed of the object, which is determined by the moving

state determination means; and

image displaying means for displaying an image representative

20   of a picture of the object moving in the virtual three-dimensional

space viewed from the viewpoint.

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